



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://latchildrenscommission.org>**

**Monday, May 7, 2012
10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (12-2301)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Patricia Curry, Vice Chair Geneva Berger, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Helen A. Kleinberg, Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Sandra Rudnick and Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW

Excused: Vice Chair Dr. Sunny Kang, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Dr. La-Doris McClaney, Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell and Commissioner Dr. Harriette F. Williams

Call to order. (12-1251)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:04 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of May 7, 2012 meeting attendees. (12-1547)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the agenda for May 7, 2012. (12-1548)

On motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW, seconded by Commissioner Sandra Rudnick, unanimously carried, (Commissioner Steven M. Olivas being absent), this item was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of April 16, 2012. (12-1549)

On motion of Commissioner Sandra Rudnick, seconded by Commissioner Cecil L. Murray, unanimously carried, (Commissioner Steven M. Olivas being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORT

4. Chair's report by Patricia Curry, Chair for May 7, 2012. (12-1550)

Chair Curry presented a verbal report on the following:

- **May 8, 2012 is the 28th Anniversary of the Commission for Children and Families; Commission was established in 1989. Chair Curry congratulated Commission Members, especially Commissioner Kleinberg who has been on the Commission since its inception.**
- **The 10th Annual Leadership Conference hosted by the Quality and Productivity Commission will be held on May 23, 2012. Commissioners interested in attending the conference may contact Commission Staff.**
- **An article in the Huffington Post by Commissioner Biondi titled, "LA Riots: A Rose Grows through Concrete 20 Years Later," regarding the California Community Foundation (CCF) and its Bloom (Building a Lifetime of Options and Opportunities for Black Men) Initiative. Commissioner Biondi added that the article details the undertaking of the CCF on a five-year multi-million dollar investment for the future of Black male youth, in partnership with several private foundations and local, non-profit organizations. The goal of this investment through the Bloom Initiative, where Commissioner Biondi serves as a member of its advisory committee, is to redirect Black male teens who are or have been in the County's Probation system away from adult incarceration to educational and employment opportunities to improve their chances to succeed as adults. Currently the Chair of Bloom, Antonia Hernandez, is traveling around the country seeking support from national foundations. The launch and announcement of this initiative took place on Wednesday, May 2, 2012, at Los Angeles Trade Technical College in California.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection (Commissioner Steven M. Olivas being absent), this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATIONS

5. Presentation by the Department of Public Health (DPH) on an Early Childhood and Maternal Obesity Prevention Project.
Dr. Paul Simon, Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Programs, DPH
Janet Scully, Staff Analyst, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Programs,
DPH (12-1552)

Dr. Paul Simon, Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Programs, DPH, reported the following:

The First 5 Commission (First 5LA), in February 2011, approved a proposal from the Early Child Obesity Prevention Program in Los Angeles County. There were two proposed initiatives approved -- 1) a first initiative focused on Child Care (child care providers) for \$6 million for a period of 5 years; and 2) a second initiative focused on Community Environment for \$35 million. The combined total of \$41 million was awarded to DPH. The Program initially had two components, Child Care and Community Environment; however, a third component, Women of Reproductive Age, was added at the request of First 5LA.

Dr. Simon gave a brief report on the Community Component as follows:

The obesity epidemic is on the rise in the Adult age group.

- **14.3 percent of the adult population was obese in 1997**
- **23 percent of the adult population was obese in 2007.**

School Age Children (from 300,000 children tested), revealed the following statistics based on California Physical Fitness testing; test consisted of six components and body composition.

- **1 percent steady increase of obesity in this group from 1995 to 2005.**
- **20,000 to 25,000 obese children were added to this group each year.**
- **2005 to 2010 the increase hit a plateau.**
- **2010 signs of obesity leveling off. In 2011 there was a decline from 23 percent to 22.6 percent.**

For Preschool Children, the data available for children age 3-4 year olds:

- **2001 to 2009 similar increase like school age children 1 percent steady increase each year.**

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- 2009 leveling off and from 2010 a decline.
 - Obesity starts very early in life, one in three children age 3-4 years old is obese.
 - 20 percent of the Children Ages 3-4 are obese.

The Community Component Initiative includes the following six categories that will be targeted:

- Media
- Target Community Education and skill building
- Foster Care Youth (Young Children Ages 1 through 5)
- Grocery Stores and Restaurant Initiative
- Health Care Providers
- Public Health Law and Policy

Janet Scully, Staff Analyst, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Programs, DPH reported the following:

- In Los Angeles County, one in three women of reproductive age is obese. Maternal overweight and obesity are linked to poor birth outcomes and lower breast feeding rates.
- Increasing the knowledge, skills, and self-efficacy among post-partum women to maintain a healthy weight through nutrition education classes, physical activity programming and social marketing is essential to fight this epidemic.
- Improving nutrition and physical activity practices in childcare settings by providing education and establishing policies that promote healthy eating and physical activity are crucial.
- The goal is to have a sole source contract in place with the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles County to accomplish goals to fight obesity.
- Children Child Care providers lack a structured activity program and do not get enough good protein. Consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages is a major contributor to the obesity epidemic; these types of drinks should be eliminated.

Commissioner Sorkin stated dental care should be a component of the Community Care Initiative. She added that Supervisor Antonovich had a meeting on this topic few years ago. Commissioner Sorkin reported fruit juice has a lot of sugar; and that the best method is to have children eat the required fruit count rather than drinking it.

Certain areas of the community have high obesity population and need to be prioritized. Educational information should also be available in languages other than English. Dr. Simon responded that priorities are given to the community based on needs, and that literature is printed in English and Spanish. However, he is open to suggestions for other languages.

Commissioner Kleinberg addressed the following items: 1) Education for relative caregivers to provide them the tools for good nutrition and proper food; 2) Public Health Nurses from DPH should be available to help children with obesity while assessing children in care; 3) Food Stamp Voucher Programs should include vouchers for fruits and vegetables; outreach should be done to local farmers' markets. Dr. Simon responded a new grant Community Transformation Fund is in place to work with schools and other sources; relative caretakers could be incorporated to the grant. Public Health Nurses will be considered. The grant allows participants to purchase vegetables with food stamp in some participating Farmers' Markets.

Chair Curry suggested that the Ms. Scully meet with Commissioners and Relative Caregivers to brainstorm on ideas and input for the initiative.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

6. Presentation by Jenny Vinopal, Director, Outreach & Community Development, California Youth Connection, regarding AB 2093 (Skinner) Foster Youth Higher Education Preparation and Support Act of 2012. (12-1014)

Jenny Vinopal, Director, Outreach & Community Development, California Youth Connection (CYC) provided her background with the CYC and reported the following:

- There has been a lack of emphasis on higher education with foster youth. In the past, once foster youth reached 18 years of age, they exited foster care with no preparation for their future. In 1998, through AB 2463 (Caldera –Outreach and Assistance for Emancipated Foster Youth), California State Universities, California State and community colleges were asked to create outreach opportunities for foster care youth. Despite efforts, this mandate was unfunded and provided no oversight on activity by the schools; there were no systems in place to require reporting to legislators on actions taken.

- **Spearheaded through AB 2463, Cal State Fullerton was successful with its efforts to aide foster youth thereby creating the Guardian Scholars Program. This program has since been replicated by other campuses. Today, there are 70 campuses across California with solid campus support programs. Many CYC participate in these support programs.**
- **Current statistics of California campuses participating in outreach programs for foster youth are as follows:**
 - **9 out of 10 UC campuses have a campus support program**
 - **17 out of 23 Cal State campuses have a campus support program**
 - **112 community colleges have a campus FYSI (Foster Youth Success Initiative) support liaison program.**
- **Processes have been implemented in colleges to identify former foster youth during the college application process. Applications now provide a section where foster youth can identify themselves during the admissions process. Additionally FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) within the past three years has added five questions to easily identify foster youth in the college system. However, there are some colleges that are not utilizing these identification tools to reach out to this population to provide support.**
- **Foster youth entering post-secondary education need resources to provide comprehensive support to aid them with specific challenges they are generally faced with. Through AB 2093 Skinner, Foster Youth Higher Education and Support Act of 2012, campuses of the California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California, are required to designate a foster youth campus program coordinator using new or existing resources to provide individualized campus support.**
- **From 2004 to 2005, the CYC helped pass the three following laws that created education rights for foster youth: 1) AB 490 Steinberg, Educational Rights for Foster Youth 2) AB 1858 Steinberg, Special education: foster children) AND 3) AB 1633 Evans, Foster children: high school: social security assistance.**

- **Ms. Vinopal distributed copies of a policy report titled, “California Youth Connation: Leadership and Policy Conference 2011 My Life . . . My Story,” which details the CYC’s interaction with legislature through a CYC convened Conference held in the State’s Capitol, Sacramento and a Summer Leadership and Policy Conference. The policy report details the results from the youth summer conference held in Fresno, California, where participants’ discussions identified mental health and higher education as key topics of focus. Participants met with state legislators to garner their support in creating opportunity for foster care youth in higher education. From these efforts, AB 2093 was introduced.**
- **AB 2093 was unanimously approved by the Higher Education Committee. The bill is currently in appropriations. A major challenge for the bill is the State’s current economy.**

Ms. Vinopal urged the Commission to support AB 2093.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Vinopal added the following:

- **If AB 2093 is passed, there will be an oversight and reporting mechanism to legislature on the bill; Statistics and evaluations on the will be compiled.**
- **The Board of Supervisors has not taken a position on this bill.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

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IV. DISCUSSIONS

7. Discussion on approval to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors expressing the Commission’s support of AB 2093 (Skinner) Foster Youth Higher Education Preparation and Support Act of 2012. (12-1917)

On motion of Commissioner Helen A. Kleinberg, seconded by Commissioner Sandra Rudnick, unanimously carried, this item was approved.

The Commission asked Ms. Vinopal to provide a copy the template letter written by the CYC, in support of AB 2093, for the Commission's use.

8. Discussion and approval of a report and recommendations from the Commission and Stakeholders Workgroup regarding Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Program for Children and Transitional Age Youth (TAY).

During discussion, the Commission made some grammatical corrections and non-substantive changes to the report. Commissioner Helen A. Kleinberg also suggested the following changes to the report:

Page 1, Recommendation 1, Paragraph 1, Sentence 3 was corrected to read as follows:

“From the State point of view, the Workgroup also recognizes that overspending in one age group may be balanced or offset by underspending in another age group in terms of the State allocation.”

Page 2, Recommendation 5, Section a., Sentence 3 was corrected to read as follows:

“There is no easy-to-read summary report that indicates what the original County plan was and what changes are.” (12-1894)

Chair Curry presented this item. She thanked Stakeholders, including the MHSA TAY Workgroup headed by Vice Chair Friedman (Chair of Workgroup) and well as Vice Chair Berger, Chair of the Children’s MHSA Workgroup, for the collaboration and information gathered at meetings which enabled the Commission to produce recommendations to enhance services available through MHSA funding for children and TAY. Chair Curry extended a special thanks to Mrs. Quinones, Deputy County Counsel, for her review and input on the report.

Vice Chair Berger went over the report and set of recommendations derived from information gathered at the Workgroup meetings and welcomed recommendations and feedback to create a final product of the report.

After discussion, at the suggestion of Commission Helen A. Kleinberg and on motion of Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, seconded by Commissioner Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW, the report and recommendations were approved with non-substantive changes in addition to the following changes noted above. Said motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Chair Patricia Curry, Vice Chair Genevra Berger, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Helen A. Kleinberg, Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Sandra Rudnick and Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW

Abstentions: 1 - Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq.

Excused: 5 - Vice Chair Dr. Sunny Kang, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Dr. La-Doris McClaney, Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell and Commissioner Dr. Harriette F. Williams

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

V. DCFS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

9. DCFS Director's Report by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS for May 7, 2012. (12-1893)

Director Browning reported the following:

- **DCFS will be contacting some of the Commission members to seek their participation and recommendations on the DCFS forthcoming Strategic Plan.**
- **DCFS budget projections for AB12 were redone. AB 12 is going to be more expensive than originally anticipated because the uptake rate for the adolescents is going to be higher. The State had originally projected a 60 percent uptake rate. In Los Angeles County, the rate is about 80 percent and statewide the uptake rate is approximately 95 percent. The cost impacts of AB 12 will be higher than originally projected. Adequate funding is available for the first year of AB 12; however, as additional youth opt for AB 12; there may be a shortfall in its second year of implementation. DCFS is working with the Child Welfare Agency to address funding concerns.**
- **The IV-E Waiver (Waiver) technically ends this year in June 2012; however, there is a bridge year where the funding stays the same. DCFS will be working with consultant Don Winstead, Winstead Consultant, to prepare the DCFS Waiver Evaluation. Additionally, we will be using the Florida Department of Children and Family Services' proposal that DCFS will use as a template. Evaluation period will be for the past 5 years. DCFS Waiver Evaluation is due in December 2012.**

- **Brandon Nichols recently joined DCFS as, Senior Deputy Director. He is a great addition to the organization and will be working on closely on Katie A., as DCFS will take the lead role with Katie A. negotiations. DCFS will work closely with the Department of Mental Health on this endeavor.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

10. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-1553)

There were none.

Public Comment

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-1554)

No members of public addressed the Commission.

Announcements

12. Announcements for the meeting of May 7, 2012. (12-1555)

There were none.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment for the meeting of May 7, 2012. (12-1556)

The meeting adjourned by Chair Curry at 12:05 p.m.